
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP TO PROTECT THE ORDER BATOIDEA, INCLUDING MANTA RAYS FROM POACHING AND FISHING.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is fortunate that its island waters are
2 home to graceful and beautiful manta rays; and
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4 WHEREAS, manta rays are most commonly found off the Kona
5 Coast on the island of Hawaii; and
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7 WHEREAS, the number of manta rays that exist is unknown,
8 and because the focus of studies has been on whales, dolphins,
9 and sharks, little research has been conducted on manta rays;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, as a result, manta rays have not received the
13 amount of attention they are due with regard to research and
14 conservation; and
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16 WHEREAS, in other parts of the world, manta rays are killed
17 because they are considered a delicacy, and a new market has
18 emerged in Asia whereby manta rays are used as an ingredient in
19 traditional medicines; and
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21 WHEREAS, there is fear that the harvesting of manta rays
22 could spread to the western Pacific; and
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24 WHEREAS, because of their low reproductive rate, there is
25 great concern that manta rays may be depleted in certain parts
26 of the world; and
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28 WHEREAS, while manta rays are not hunted commercially in
29 Hawaii, there are currently no laws protecting manta rays; and
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31 WHEREAS, preventive action should be taken now to ensure
32 the protection of manta rays in Hawaii's waters; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2006, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources
4 (DLNR) is requested to partner with other state and government
5 agencies with expertise to establish a working group to
6 determine methods to protect the Order Batoidea, including manta
7 rays from poaching and fishing; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
10 to:

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12 (1) Research and pursue all possible means of protecting
13 the Order Batoidea, including manta rays; and
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15 (2) Draft proposed administrative rules to prevent
16 poaching, fishing, or killing of species under the
17 Order Batoidea;

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19 and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DLNR is requested to
22 immediately implement emergency measures to prohibit the taking
23 of manta rays while the study is in progress; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DLNR is requested to submit a
26 report to the Legislature of its findings and progress to
27 implement administrative rules, including proposed suggested
28 legislation if necessary, no later than 30 days prior to the
29 convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if significant protection is
32 not achieved by January 2007, the Legislature may consider
33 enacting laws to implement 100 percent protection of all manta
34 rays; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
38 Land and Natural Resources.

